

Observational activity instructions

Preparing for observing

Study time: 20 minutes

Summary

This video sequence complements the written material in the *Observational activities* booklet. It explains the use of the planisphere, how to tackle an observational project using ‘The sidereal and solar day’ as an example, and provides animations of the sky’s apparent motion.

Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes for the observational activities are grouped together at the front of the *Observational activities* booklet.

Pre-viewing notes

There are two parts to the sequence:

- a demonstration of the use of the planisphere, and of how to tackle the observational activity ‘The sidereal and solar day’ (4.5 minutes)
- an animation of the sky’s apparent motion (6 minutes).

Note that this video sequence was prepared before this course was written so there are a few small anomalies with the content:

- The label ‘1’ in the top left of the screen can be ignored.
- The elapsed time in the top right of the screen has some small gaps.
- The presenter refers to ‘project book’, ‘project sheets’ and ‘this videotape’ which should be regarded as ‘activity notebook’, ‘observational activity instructions’ and ‘this video sequence’ respectively.

The activity

- To find the video clip for this activity, start the S282 Multimedia guide and then click on Preparing for observing under the Observational activities folder in the left-hand panel.
- Press the Start button to run the video sequence.

Post-viewing notes

The *Observational activities* booklet and observational activity instructions contain material that fully supports this video sequence so no further material is given here. The animation can usefully be compared with Figures 1.5 and 1.6 in the *Observational activities* booklet.

Video credits

Presenter – Barrie Jones (The Open University)

Producer – Tony Jolly (BBC)